

Budget Update

May 16, 2008



**Building the Future...
Child by Child**
FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fairfax
County
Public
Schools



Fairfax County, Virginia
www.fcps.edu

Introduction

The School Board's beliefs, vision, and mission statements and student achievement goals drive the budget process. Resources are identified and aligned to best promote student achievement and to meet the School Board's goals. Together we are all Building the Future... Child by Child.

This Week's Topic: Residents' Concerns Emerge at School Board Public Hearing on Budget

The Fairfax County School Board held a public hearing on the budget on Wednesday, May 14. Seventy-six people signed up to speak to the Board, including seven FCPS students. Speakers represented a variety of organizations including the Fairfax Education Association, the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, the Braddock District Coalition, the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations, and various parent-teacher groups. Speakers shared concerns, suggestions, and requests for funding on topics ranging from the market-scale adjustment for employees to the foreign language in the elementary school program to full-day kindergarten to class size at the elementary level.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors included in its adopted FY 2009 budget a \$40 million increase in the transfer to FCPS instead of the \$63.7 million that the school system requested. Due to the shortfall in county revenue, FCPS needs to make up for the \$23.7 million gap in the county transfer.

At the May 8 School Board meeting, Superintendent Jack Dale presented recommendations to balance the FY 2009 budget. These were discussed in last week's Budget Update dated May 9, 2008.

One of the proposed adjustments is to reduce the cost of living adjustment for all employees. A 1 percent reduction in the salary market scale adjustment (from 3 percent identified in the advertised budget to 2 percent) results in a savings of \$17.5 million. Step increases for all eligible employees remain in the budget.

FCPS will continue to offer a comprehensive benefits package to meet the needs of its employees. FCPS will pick up the remaining 0.5 percent of the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) employee retirement contribution. This represents the final year of FCPS' six-year commitment and will result in a decrease in the retirement costs of every employee enrolled in VRS.

The School Board will consider all options and weigh resident concerns before it votes on the FCPS FY 2009 approved budget on Thursday, May 22.

Members of the public may follow the School Board's budget deliberations at the budget work session on Monday, May 19, and may view the School Board's final budget vote at its meeting on Thursday, May 22.

Next Week's Topic: Report on the FCPS FY 2009 Approved Budget

For current budget information: www.fcps.edu/fs

To ask a question, e-mail: budinfo@fcps.edu or call 571-423-3600

To voice comments on advertised budget priorities: www.fcps.edu, Budget Ideas